



Newsletter

Monday, August 5, 2013

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AIDD: Apply for FY2013 Help America Vote Act Training and Technical Assistance for Protection and Advocacy Systems Funds

Organizations still have time to apply for the FY2013 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) for Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) funding opportunity. The purpose of funds awarded under this announcement is to provide T/TA to the nationwide network of P&A systems to assist with their promotion of full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities. **The application deadline is due August 15, 2013.**

Directed by the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), the P&A system works to protect the legal and human rights of individuals with disabilities.

[Full announcement.](#)

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Affordable Care Act/Health Insurance Marketplace

Obama Administration Launches Website to Educate Businesses about the Affordable Care Act

Last week, the Obama Administration launched Business.USA.gov/healthcare, a one-stop-shop Website which will provide educational materials on how the Affordable Care Act may affect businesses of all sizes. The website includes a wizard tool that is customized by size and location, so businesses can learn how the law helps them provide affordable coverage options to their employees

while still meeting their bottom line. It is a user-friendly hub that connects employers to informational content on tax credits and other provisions of the law from the Small Business Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Treasury Department. [Read more.](#)

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Apply to Become a Certified Application Counselor Organization

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [released the application](#) for organizations (in states that will have federally-facilitated marketplace or a State Partnership Marketplace) to train their staff and volunteers as [Certified Application Counselors \(CACs\)](#). The counselors will help people apply for health coverage through the Marketplace. See [additional guidance](#) on requirements for CAC organizations

Thursday, August 7, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. ET: Join CMS for a training session that will cover what you need to know to become a CAC organization.

Topics will include:

- Requirements for a CAC organization
- How to apply to be a CAC organization
- Overview of training requirements
- Marketplace eligibility and enrollment
- Medicaid expansion
- The streamlined application process

[Register.](#)

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HHS Office of Civil Rights Requests Information on the Affordable Care Act

The Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued a Request for Information on the civil rights provision of the Affordable Care Act (Section 1557) in the *Federal Register*. The Department welcomes comments from consumers, health care providers, and other interested members of the public.

Section 1557 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity), disability, or age in certain health

programs and activities and applies civil rights protections to the newly created Health Insurance Marketplaces.

Comments must be received at one of the addresses provided below, no later than 5p.m. on September 30, 2013. [Click here](#) for more information and guidance on how to submit your comments.

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Health Insurance Marketplace Training Webinars

This month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are offering a series of Health Insurance Marketplace training webinars. Read the descriptions, review the schedules below, and select the session that best meets your information needs. (Note: Webinar audio will be delivered over the Internet and will play through your computer speakers, or you can stream audio from a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet.)

Health Insurance Marketplace 101

This webinar is for people who want to better understand the basics of the Health Insurance Marketplace. It includes an overview of the accomplishments of the Affordable Care Act and a basic introduction to the Marketplace (Exchanges), highlighting who is eligible and how the Marketplace will work.

Date	Time	Webinar Link
August 8, 2013	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	Register
August 28, 2013	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	Register

Understanding the Health Insurance Marketplace

This webinar is designed for those who help people make informed health coverage decisions. This detailed review of the Marketplace (Exchanges) includes eligibility, enrollment, plan structure, Medicaid expansion, and the streamlined application. This session covers many of the same topics as the Health Insurance Marketplace 101 session, but it is provided in more depth.

Date	Time	Webinar Link
August 14, 2013	1:00 – 2:30 pm ET	Register

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News from HHS

HHS Report on Accomplishments, New Efforts to Improve LGBT Health

Last week, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius released [*HHS LGBT Issues Coordinating Committee 2013 Report*](#). The report details the Department's significant strides over the past year, as well as its objectives for the coming year for improving the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, families, and communities. The Department's recent and future work encompasses a range of investments to help reduce health disparities and ensure equality and health security for LGBT Americans, from LGBT-inclusive research and data collection, to equal access to affordable, quality health coverage.

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Medicare Drug Premiums Remain Stable Four Years in a Row

On July 30, 2013, the 48th anniversary of the signing of Medicare and Medicaid into law, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released data showing that the average premium for a basic prescription drug plan in 2014 is projected to remain stable, at an estimated \$31 per month. [Read more.](#)

[Statement by Secretary Sebelius on the 48th Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid.](#)

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Funding Opportunities

CMS Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative Funding Opportunity

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a Money Follows the Person (MFP) Tribal Initiative (TI) funding opportunity. The MFP-TI offers existing MFP state grantees and tribal partners the resources to build sustainable, community-based long term services and supports (CB-LTSS) specifically for Indian country. The TI may be used to advance the development of infrastructure required to implement CB-LTSS for American Indians and Alaska Natives using a single or a variety of applicable Medicaid authorities.

[Click here](#) for the full announcement. The application deadline is October 17, 2013.

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Partners for Sight Foundation Announces RFP for Projects to Assist Blind, Visually Impaired

The [Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation](#) is dedicated to increasing the self-reliance and dignity of blind and visually impaired persons. The foundation has issued a Request for Proposals for initiatives that align with its mission to assist the visually impaired and blind in leading independent and productive lives.

[Link to Complete RFP](#). The application deadline is September 20, 2013.

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Tools & Information

National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center Selected as MS Society's Nationwide Service Provider of the Month for July

Congratulations to the [National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center](#) on its selection as the MS Society's Nationwide Service Provider of the Month for July. The award is intended to show appreciation towards our national providers and ensure they receive the attention they deserve for serving clients affected by multiple sclerosis.

The Center contributes to improving the quality of life and care of residents in long-term care facilities by providing consultation, information, and ombudsmen referrals to residents, families, and others who use ombudsman services.

For more information on this recognition, contact Leigha Luca-Brock of the MS Society at 303-698-6100 or by email leigha.lucasbrock@nmss.org.

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Sign up for 2013 National Aging and Law Institute

Registration is now open for the 2013 National Aging and Law Institute. The Institute will be held November 8-10th at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's conference theme is *Client Advocacy in Caring Communities*. The program includes a blend of advanced programming for attorneys in both private practice and non-profit public interest work, as well as for non-attorney advocates in the aging network.

The conference is hosted by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and co-sponsored by the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, the National Senior Citizens Law Center, the Center for Social Gerontology, the National Consumer Law Center, the AARP Foundation and the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities. [Click here](#) for more information.

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August Observances

[Immunization Awareness Month](#)

1-8 [National Minority Donor Awareness Week](#)

11-17 [National Community Health Center Week](#)

14 [Anniversary of the Social Security Act](#)

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